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Reviews, Critiques, and Annotations

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Reviews, Critiques, and Annotations

Authors

Glen McAninch, Alice Knierim, Hubert B. Ross, Robert Bohanan, Darlene R. Roth, Joe Garrison, Tony Cook, and Darlene R. Roth

REVIEWS, CRITIQUES, AND ANNOTATIONS

[With this issue of *Georgia Archive* the responsibilities for the book review section pass to new editors: Darlene Roth oversees the longer reviews and critiques; Martin Elzy writes the short reviews, notes, and annotations. It is our hope that this section will retain its high quality while broadening its base to include not only published histories, genealogies, and archival guides, but also materials from exhibits, records management, EDP, tape and video programs, unusual anthologies, and other items of interest. We hope the readers will offer us suggestions and assistance, and we look forward to a rewarding period of editorial service. Eds.]

The American Daguerreotype. By Floyd and Marion Rinhart. Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1981. Pp.x, 446. Illustrations, dictionary of terms, appendix, indices. \$65.

This attractive, information-packed book serves the interests of historians, archivists, and art lovers alike. While it does not describe the preservation and restoration techniques archivists require, it does document styles, techniques, and camera types used by daguerreotypists. Therefore, archivists who deal with this medium will have clues to date, location, and chemical contents of these rare records of the past.

For those who regard daguerreotypes as an art form, the Rinharts' book contains a plethora of full-sized color and black-and-white samples, from the mediocre to the unusual in photos and miniatures. In addition, the book includes chapters on the use of color tinting and art influences on daguerreotypists. Even without the text the book might be worth the price to those who

prefer to "read" a book through its illustrations.

It will also appeal to readers who appreciate a lively history. The narrative, extracted from newspaper notices, journal articles, and books on photography, describes the countless experiments dreamed up by photo pioneers in search of a more perfect image. Because processes varied so widely during the relatively short time the daguerreotype was in common use, careful documentation of its technologies is as necessary to preservation as it is to the historical record. Only with full understanding of all the processes used can the best method be planned for archival conservation and restoration.

It is fortunate for Georgians that the authors included an unusually large number of photos from that state, recording as well the activities in Georgia of many itinerant daguerreotypists who regularly came south for the winter. The Rinharts acknowledge their debt to Georgia curators, photo specialists, and collectors who aided in their research. Given the quality of this volume, the reader owes a debt not only to the authors, but also to the imaginative daguerreotypists of the nineteenth century who made this unique work possible.

Richard B. Russell Memorial Library Glen McAninch

Archives and Manuscripts: Public Programs. By Ann E. Pederson and Gail Farr Casterline. (Basic Manual Series II, Vol. 8.) Chicago: Society of American Archivists, 1982. Pp. 94. Bibliography, appendices, charts, sample forms, illustrations, and photographs. Paper. \$5 SAA members/\$7 others.

The title of this manual implies a narrower focus than the content reveals. In the work, the authors define a public program as "any activity that contributes to a greater awareness of archives and what they do." This includes traditional efforts--such as oral history, exhibits, lectures, receptions, slide shows, mini-classes, workshops, and student programs--and projects not normally considered public programming such as publications, guides to collections,

and photographic documentation of current events.

Perhaps the greatest value of the book is its straightforward discussion of public programs as an integral part of any archives. Since archivists deal with the public, argue the authors, they are already involved in public programming and owe it to themselves and their constituents to develop activities appropriate to their institutions. These activities would support and enhance other archival functions, facilitate the delivery of core reference services, and fulfill the archival mandate to "make records accessible to the public."

Its breadth makes this a very useful, practical guide for public programming, though its broad focus does not allow for much depth of treatment. At times the reader wishes for fuller treatment of topics (especially school programs) and more examples of actual activities. Still, the manual serves as a sound tool for anyone initiating programs or expanding existing ones.

The first three chapters focus on redefining public programs, assessing institutional needs, and developing programs through a sensible "add-on" approach. Then, the authors move on to chapters on program "how-tos," instructional programs, consultants and volunteers, publicity, evaluation, and funding. The appendices contain very useful forms, and the extensive bibliography identifies resources by subject area. The only major omission noted is consideration of accessibility to handicapped individuals.

Archives and Manuscripts: Public Programs is a very valuable resource for the archivist beginning to consider this aspect of his/her profession and a useful refresher for those already committed to multi-faceted public outreach. The authors and the society are to be commended for their recognition of the importance of public programming in the functioning of archival institutions.

Georgia Department of Archives
and History

Alice Knierim

Homecoming: African-American Family History in Georgia. By Carole Merritt. Foreword by Caspar L. Jordan. Atlanta, Ga: The African-American Family History Association, 1982. Pp.124. Maps, reproductions of documents, photographs (13 in color). Paper. \$10.

Homecoming is the title for both an exhibition and a publication. The exhibit, prepared by the association under the direction of Carole Merritt and supported by grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Georgia Endowment for the Humanities, was on view at the Atlanta Public Library, March 26 through September 30, 1982. It constituted a significant event in Georgia historiography and provided an enlightening, inspiring experience for all who saw its celebration of African-American heritage. It deserves highest praise.

The publication provides an essay which documents and interprets the exhibit and reproduces, nearly completely, its assemblage of maps, documents, artifacts, and photographs. The book is organized, as were the exhibit materials, around critical moments in the cycle of life through which most mortals must universally pass--birth, babyhood, childhood, coming-of-age, courtship and marriage, and death--utilizing data which relate the African experience to the African-American experience.

Historically, the text supports the Herbert Gutman interpretation of black family history and, sociologically, those analysts whose research attests to the health and viability of the black family. But family behavior patterns around critical moments in life are easier to infer than to demonstrate, and in this reviewer's opinion, the presentation lacks a concept of family sufficiently useful for historical and sociological comparisons across African-American or across African family lineage lines. Setting aside, however, the technicalities which affect scientific judgments, the interpretations of the author with respect to the persistence of African patterns of culture in adaptation to the new environment of Georgia are plausible and judicious. On the whole, the broad canvas painted will serve well those persons inspired to venture into the past of their own families.

The great strength of the exhibit and publication lies in the illumination of the material culture presented. (The excellent presentation of midwifery comes immediately to mind as an example.) It is appropriate to salute the contributions of all participants in making both exhibition and publication possible and to express the hope that both will have effects that are provocative, stimulating, and innovative for the recovery of this kind of history.

Atlanta University

Hubert B. Ross

J. Franklin Jameson and the Birth of the National Archives, 1906-1926. By Victor Gondos, Jr. Foreword by James B. Rhoads. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1981. Pp. xv, 232. Illustrations, bibliography, index. \$20.

In 1926, one hundred fifty years after America declared its independence, Congress authorized the first appropriation for a national archives building. Why did it take so long? Gondos agrees with Ernst Posner that American archival development lagged behind European development because of the decentralized nature of American government. Increasing, specialized governmental functions led European nations to recognize that a central archival repository offered more efficient control over records than individual agency archives or registries, but until the growth of federal agencies during World War I, American government felt no such pressure. Instead, pressure came from the persistent demands of scholars.

From 1906 to 1926, no American scholar was more persistent in the movement for a national archives than J. Franklin Jameson, director of the Department of Historical Research of the Carnegie Institution of Washington. He and his chief collaborator Waldo G. Leland, (coeditor of the *Guide to the Archives of the Government of the United States in Washington*, 1904) used their knowledge of federal records to promote, propagandize, and lobby for the idea, transforming the central warehouse concept into the National Archives--an

independent agency with a trained professional staff housed in a specially designed repository. The list of individuals and organizations Jameson recruited for his cause is remarkable--every president from Roosevelt to Roosevelt, Librarian of Congress Putnam, naval historian Mahan, newspaperman Hearst, and patriotic groups such as the American Legion and the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Why did it take Jameson twenty years to succeed? At first legislators felt that they had more important matters to consider than archives. After World War I, when the need for an archives building could no longer be ignored, the question became tied to public works projects and was sidetracked by pork barrel politics. Only when the executive and legislative branches agreed on an omnibus bill putting federal buildings in congressmen's districts were any new buildings, the National Archives included, to be erected in the District of Columbia. Just before the passage of the bill, a frustrated Jameson wrote, "Because the national archives are everybody's business, they are in a sense nobody's business," a lament as true today as it was then. Jameson's efforts were hampered by the absence of an effective lobby, and today the National Archives operations are hampered for the very same reason.

Gondos' book skillfully details the establishment of the National Archives and Jameson's dedicated efforts to it. This was Gondos' dissertation, completed when he was sixty-nine years old and published posthumously with revisions by James B. Rhoads, formerly archivist of the United States. It is an important contribution to the field of archival history which should appeal to all historians, archivists, and librarians.

Carter Presidential Materials
Project

Robert Bohanan

Research in Georgia. By Robert Scott Davis, Jr. Easley, S.C.: Southern Historical Press, 1981. Pp. xviii, 269. Preface, index, illustrations. \$25. Paper, \$20.

This indispensable volume offers researchers in

Georgia history and genealogy good basic information and many shortcuts through the maze of public records at the Georgia Department of Archives and History, which is featured, and at several other research institutions in the state. The guide gives a brief history of the Georgia archives, introduces the reader to each major section of the state archives, explains how the archives is physically arranged, what the hours, locations, and usages are for each section, and what materials are available in each. Cleverly, Davis also discusses what is *not* available. In addition, he offers good bibliographic information (lists of county histories, standard reference works, and published archival guides), names of publishers of Georgiana, standard abbreviations used to identify county records, a glossary of legal terms, guides to census records (published, unpublished, and indexed), and, perhaps most valuable of all, exact and extensive listings of the available county and land records in the state.

The weakest sections of the book have to do with the other research institutions, whose listings are neither comprehensive nor very informative. The maps are not properly cited or well presented; they are poorly reproduced--too small to be very readable. The introduction urges readers to write the archives to encourage it to microfilm and make available the public records of post-1900 Georgia counties as it has done for pre-1900 county records; while an entirely laudable cause, it seems an odd way to begin a book.

As Davis suggests, Georgia "suffers" from an abundance of public records rather than from a scarcity. His book does much to help general researchers, students, genealogists, historians, and all other interested parties in Georgia history to utilize the records with intelligence and efficiency. *Research in Georgia* is highly recommended.

The History Group, Inc.

Darlene R. Roth

Local History and Townscape Conservation: Opportunities for Georgia's Communities. Prepared by Robert

and Company. **Project principals:** Gail Morgan Timmis, James Cothran, Darlene Roth. Georgia Downtown Development Association, 1981. Pp.48. Illustrated. Available free from Georgia Main Street Center, Department of Community Affairs, 40 Marietta Street, Atlanta, Ga. 30303. [Note: This publication received an award of merit from the American Society of Landscape Architects. Ed.]

This publication is a product of a recent statewide public awareness program on the value of local history to small communities in Georgia, sponsored by the Georgia Downtown Development Association and underwritten by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs, the Georgia Endowment for the Humanities, and the cities of Athens, Canton, La Grange, Swainsboro, and Waycross. The purpose of the program was to heighten the awareness of the significance of each municipality's history and cultural resources and identify opportunities for improvement through historic preservation.

The text moves logically from a discussion of local history to an overview of historic preservation to an explanation of the value of townscape (as opposed to landscape) conservation. Next come profiles of the five Georgia communities, each of which provides a synopsis of historic development, an appraisal of current physical status, a discussion of the community's sense of its own past, and a review of local historic resources. These are followed by a listing of organizations which can provide preservation assistance.

The form and substance of this publication are simple but not simplistic; its organization is logical, its narrative clear, informative, and happily lacking in rhetoric and jargon. The tone is light, upbeat, and optimistic. The layout complements the text, breaking it up with photographs, maps, and tables. The photographs, though entirely in black and white, are exciting and well chosen. The maps are easy to read and uncluttered. The booklet is slim enough to be comfortably read in one sitting.

Through the effective use of honest comparison,

the compilers succeed in allowing the reader to comprehend differences and similarities among small towns. This implants in the reader's mind the understanding that while local history and townscape conservation provide great opportunities for small towns to develop their cultural resources, the uniqueness of each town's history will dictate varying development solutions.

The publication is a fine execution of the notion that a specific set of case studies can be shared accurately, pleasantly, and profitably with a broader community of readers. The thesis that citizens can use local history and townscape conservation to understand more about their town, even help revitalize it, comes through clearly. The work is a primer on preservation which pretends to be nothing more or less; as such, it serves its stated purpose very, very well.

Atlanta Bureau of Cultural Affairs

Joe Garrison

Ohio Municipal Records Manual. Edited by David Levine. Columbus, Ohio: The Ohio Historical Society, 1981. Pp.84. Preface, sample forms, appendices. Available from State Archivist, Ohio Historical Society, 1982 Velma Ave., Columbus, Ohio 43211.

In the introduction to the *Ohio Municipal Records Manual*, Governor James A. Rhodes emphasizes the value of information in the operation of government: "Good government requires sound management, and sound management requires efficient and effective record-keeping systems." The records manual prepared by the Ohio Historical Society is a commendable effort toward insuring the proper management of records from their creation, maintenance, and utilization to their eventual disposal or preservation.

The eighty-four page manual furnishes local government officials with a five-step plan for establishing a records management program and with suggested retention periods for over seven hundred record series commonly maintained by local government agencies. Because Ohio law requires each municipality to create a local records commission responsible for determining

retention periods for records maintained locally, this manual provides common direction in records management for the decentralized programs to follow.

The retention periods listed were developed from the concerted efforts of fifteen Ohio cities, where record series were appraised for their administrative, legal, fiscal, and historical values. Approximately twenty-seven percent were identified as having permanent, historical value. The schedules are arranged according to governmental function--such as airports, courts, fire and police,, planning and zoning--in easily read, columnar formats which make them readily available for fast reference.

Although the manual recognizes the necessity of reducing the costs of record-keeping at all levels of government, it does not disregard records of enduring value. Permanently valuable information becomes, in essence, a long-term institutional memory which can be referenced for policy planning, implementation, and evaluation. Retention schedules make it possible for public information to be preserved. Thus, future generations of citizens can understand, in a historical context, the forces which shape their lives.

West Georgia Cooperative Educational
Services Agency

Tony Cook

To Raise Myself a Little: The Diaries and Letters of Jennie, a Georgia Teacher, 1851-1886. [Amelia Akehurst Lines.] Edited by Thomas Dyer. Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1982. Pp. xviii, 284. Preface, illustrations, index. \$20.

Such a poignant, compelling yet unadorned collection of documents has seldom been published about a woman in the South--a nonsouthern, unknown, not altogether successful teacher, who rose very little above her educated, unwealthy station. The life of Amelia Akehurst Lines (Jennie), as revealed in these letters and diaries, is unenviable in its hardships but totally unforgettable in its humanity.

The papers carry Jennie from the time she begins

teaching in 1857 to her death in Georgia in 1886; they reveal much about the practices and problems in the classroom, family member interactions and social customs, female expectations and socialization in the nineteenth century, courtship, marriage, and "upward" mobility. The materials are rich in Georgia scenes, especially since Jennie undertook numerous relocations--Euharlee, Walton County, Oxford, Covington, Fayetteville, Newnan, Stilesboro, and Atlanta. The local color is often fresh, biting, and unusual.

Accompanying the letters and diary entries are a map, a chronology of events in Jennie's life, photographs of the principals, and an introductory text which outlines the biography. Sadly, there is not sufficient material or explanation given surrounding the death--timing, causes, and place--of Jennie's husband, Sylvannus Lines, which leaves the impact of that event on Jennie somewhat inconclusive. The volume is relatively silent on the Civil War (compared to other such collections) but rich and eloquent on prewar life and postwar adjustments.

The volume would have been more successful than it is had the editor taken to heart the lessons of Mary Beth Norton and Carol Smith-Rosenberg--which he cites but does not apply--and had he presented not just Jennie, but Jennie's circle in full array. With the materials he had at hand, he could have demonstrated the complex world of love, ritual, network, and association between Jennie and her female kith and kin, *as it occurred*, and given the readers an excellent example of what is generally accepted feminist historiography: that is, that it is the collectivity of womanhood in the past which is historically more significant in explaining female experience than is, often, an individual life. As it is, Dyer uses materials from Jennie's correspondents when he needs to fill in her story line and not as an indication of their personal centrality to Jennie. He tells us, for instance, how important Jennie's sister-in-law Maria was to Jennie, but the collection fails to show that. Had he done this, Dyer could have made a much greater contribution to women's history than he has. For his accomplishment in adding to Georgia and southern

social history, however, his volume is to be commended.

The History Group, Inc.

Darlene R. Roth

The King's Coffer: Proprietors of the Spanish Florida Treasury, 1565-1702. By Amy Bushnell. Gainesville: University Presses of Florida, 1981. Pp. x, 198. Map, tables, appendices, notes, bibliography. \$20.

This is a concise, thoughtful study of the Spanish royal treasury at St. Augustine during the time members of the influential Menendez Marquez family were proprietors in this exchequer. Not only is this monograph valuable in critically examining one of the important institutions in Spanish Florida, it also enables the reader to understand policy in New Spain better.

Bushnell provides background on the establishment of the St. Augustine exchequer, detailing the difficult economic position of a colony without precious stones or metals. She then explains the economic burden of nobility and how social distinctions came to be more important at an isolated post than at the court in Seville. A discussion of proprietorship and how purchasing multiple offices was an accepted (and necessary) practice in Florida is followed by a chapter detailing treasury organization and the work performed by the various officials associated with royal finances.

Successive chapters deal with the *situado*--yearly royal money used to pay all public expenses--and the sources of crown funds in the Indies, including St. Augustine. As Bushnell makes clear, not only was the *situado*--which was sent from Mexico City--often appropriated or lost at sea, but St. Augustine was largely unable to generate internal revenue, thus exacerbating a difficult colonial situation. Bushnell details the responsibilities of crown officials, although she says little about individual initiative in interpreting royal decrees. She concludes with a discussion of crown efforts to maintain fiscal responsibility in St. Augustine.

As a narrowly focused monograph, this work succeeds very well and, as previously stated, provides valuable information on the Spanish Florida treasury.

King's Coffer illuminates some of the social fabric of early St. Augustine, a subject generally ignored by most Florida historians. It is a welcome addition to the slim literature in this area.

National Park Service, Denver

Michael G. Schene

Cities, Towns and Communities of Georgia Between 1847-1962, 8500 Places and the County in Which Located. Compiled by Marion R. Hemperley. Easley, S.C.: Southern Historical Press, 1980. Pp.161. Preface, maps. \$17.50.

The Deputy Surveyor General of Georgia compiled this list from records in the Georgia Surveyor General Department. The names of cities, towns, and communities are listed alphabetically, followed by the county in which located and a date indicating the source of that particular entry. The volume includes seven maps dating from 1849 to 1932, but they are quite difficult to read.

Georgia Museums and Galleries: A Directory of Non-Profit Institutions. Compiled and published by the Georgia Association of Museums and Galleries. Current to spring 1981. Pp.54. Index. Paper. \$1.

This attractively illustrated brochure, of interest to tourists and professionals, has been a goal of the GAMG since its founding in 1977. Entries for more than 150 museums and galleries are arranged by seven regions of the state. Each entry includes name, address, phone number, hours of operation, subject (art, history, natural history, science), and a short description of fewer than fifty words. An alphabetical name index facilitates use.

Guide to Archives and Manuscripts in the University of Wisconsin-Parkside Area Research Center. By the State Historical Society of Wisconsin and the University

of Wisconsin-Parkside, 1982. Pp. 114. No price given.

One of the thirteen area research centers in the state network, the Parkside ARC holds the records and papers of individuals, organizations, businesses, and local governments from Racine and Kenosha counties. This description of the holdings as of January, 1982, arranges material in five groups: manuscript collections, county and local government records, newspapers, genealogical material, and cartographic records. There is no index.

Guide to the Research Collections of the Maryland Historical Society: Historical and Genealogical Manuscripts and Oral History Interviews. Edited by Richard J. Cox and Larry E. Sullivan. Baltimore: Maryland Historical Society, 1981. Pp. ix, 354. Index. \$22.

This volume supplements *The Manuscript Collections of the Maryland Historical Society* (1968). In each of the three sections indicated by the title, collections are listed numerically, but there is also an index for the entire volume as well as an alphabetical list of interviewees in the oral history section. Substantial information is provided on each collection, such as size, dates, subject and type of materials, and restrictions on use and access. Maryland Historical Society holdings not covered by this volume include the archives of the Episcopal Diocese of Maryland and special collections of sheet music, photographs, and maps.

History and Genealogy of the Hansborough-Hansbrough Family with Data on the Hanbury, Garrard, Lash, Devous, Davis, Wathen, and Bell Families. By John W. Hansborough. Published by the author at 2014 Travis Heights Blvd., Austin, Texas 78704, 1981. Pp. x, 277. Name index, photographs, charts, and coats of arms. No price given.

The family is traced from about 1200 in England.

Legality of Microfilm: Admissibility in Evidence of Microfilm Records. Edited by Robert F. Williams. Chicago: Cohasset Associates (505 North Lake Shore Drive, 60611), 1980. Looseleaf. \$75 plus \$25 for annual update.

Updating a 1971 publication, this work goes beyond the limits suggested in the title and provides a general guide to the use of microfilm for record-keeping. Pertinent state and federal laws and regulations are summarized.

Local and Family History in South Carolina: A Bibliography. Compiled by Richard N. Cote. Easley, S.C.: Southern Historical Press, 1981. Pp. xiv, 498. Appendices, addenda, index. \$27.50. Paper, \$22.50.

During the spring of 1980, the South Carolina Historical Society sponsored a genealogical project including publication of this guide to local and family history sources in over eighty libraries, archives, and historical and genealogical societies. Entries cover published, typed, and mimeographed material and some collections of manuscript records, but most primary source material is not included. Location of an entry is included if the item is in fewer than four repositories. The index includes proper, personal, place, and institutional names, but not subjects.

Mills' Atlas: Atlas of the State of South Carolina, 1825. Introduction by Gene Waddell. Easley, S.C.: Southern Historical Press, 1980. Pp. xii, 43. Place name index, full name index, and maps. \$25.

This reproduction of the first state atlas prepared in the United States is preceded by an introduction by the director of the South Carolina Historical Society. Waddell traces the development of the atlas from its conception in 1815 to its publication by Robert Mills in 1825--an essential historical resource for nineteenth century South Carolina history.

Specifications for Microfilming Manuscripts. By the Library of Congress, Photoduplication Service. Washington, D.C.: Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, 1981. Pp. xii, 21. \$2.

The third in a series devoted to microfilming different types of material, this pamphlet covers basic information from preparation of material for microfilming to storage of microfilm.

Stepping Off the Pedestal: Academic Women in the South. Edited by Patricia A. Stringer and Irene Thompson. New York: Modern Language Association of America, 1982. Pp. ix, 181. Appendix. Paper. \$8.95.

Published by the MLA's Commission on the Status of Women in the Profession, this volume of articles and occasional poems by more than a dozen authors concerns not just professors, but also women students and women's studies. Of particular interest to archivists is an appended bibliographical essay, prepared by a graduate women studies class at Emory University, discussing primary and secondary sources on the history of higher education for women in the South.

NOTE: Southern Historical Press, Inc., has launched the Southern Historical Press Genealogical Book Club. Information may be obtained by writing to the press, Post Office Box 738, Easley, S.C. 29640.

NOTE: Copies of "Special Collections, an Annotated Guide..." to the archives at Washington University Libraries may be obtained free, as long as the supply lasts, by writing to Special Collections, Campus Box 1061, Washington University, St. Louis, Mo. 63130.